



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in person meeting in the Community Center

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–November 16, 2022

**November PIC meeting will be held in the
Community Room/with a zoom option also
available**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Somers (standing in as chair), Peter McLaughlin, Scott Mohler, Natasha Markov-Riss

Absent: Peter Eckel, Jerzy Sylvester, SE Rafferty

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 13

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mohler made the motion to accept the September 28, 2022 meeting minutes.

Markov-Riss seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

McLaughlin announced that the District 1 meeting with District 1 councilor (Anna Trevorror) is going to be Wednesday, November 30th, 6:30p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Patnaude said that 40 middle school and high school passes have been paid for in the amount of \$3298, and an expenditure for needs based tickets in the amount of \$281.05.

McLaughlin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Markov-Riss seconded. Treasurer's report approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- **Parking – update on Thames Street extension IR zone parking spaces**

Peter Eckel was not present – no update.

- **Golf Cart –**

Somers said there is no update on golf carts.

- **Ferry Service – update**

Somers said that CBL board elections are on November 8th. PIC sponsored a candidates night for the CBL election.

- **Anti-racism Committee – annual update**

No update at this time.

- **Environmental and Sustainability- updates on Trott Littlejohn and compost program project**

McLaughlin said Friends of Trott Littlejohn had an open house on October 15th and they have started taking survey responses about what people would like to see at the park. PIC is also developing a survey and will have something by next meeting.

- **Housing – ReCode Zoning survey**

The committee is meeting with Rachel Conly October 27th at 6pm at 79 Island Avenue (Baba's) and it is open to the public. Rachel will provide input about the building code and how best to approach the city about affordable housing and building re-code priorities.

- **Jetport Noise**

No update.

- **Voter Education Committee – plans for November election candidate night**

Wednesday, October 12th at 6pm was the candidates night. Very good attendance, very good feedback. PIC issued a voter guide that had been approved by the entire board. McLaughlin said that a main branch librarian said they are going to use the PIC voter guide as a non-partisan guide for people who come to the library asking for help with their ballots (that the librarians cannot provide, but they can provide this non-partisan guide about the issues). The voter guide is available on the PIC google drive and McLaughlin is going to print out a few hard copies to have at the library.

- **Executive Committee – ballot updates**

Patnaude provided an update about the 8/26 storm. The storm was very localized and local crews started removing trees and clearing roads immediately. It took 3-5 days to clear all the debris. The city contracted two private companies to clear brush from the sides of the road.

McLaughlin asked if there was any additional support that was required that PIC could advocate for. Patnaude said no additional support was required and the public work crew did a fabulous job.

McLaughlin read updates from Eckel. The next meeting with the city councilors will be November 15th in order to keep the city apprised of current island issues.

In the past, the PIC has not had an opportunity to weigh in on the city's annual capital budget process or the 5-year capital improvement plan. PIC would like to be proactive about capital improvements on the island, and would like to get input from islanders on capital improvement projects. Motion coming later in the meeting.

PIC will begin a post-election appointment process at the November meeting because the PIC will have three unfilled seats, that need to be filled by January 2023 in order to have a full 7-seat board.

NEW BUSINESS

- Presentation on restarting the Marginal Way to CBL shuttle in 2023 from City Parking Director John Peverada - *public comment*

John Peverada summarized city's recent work to improve islander parking:

- Allow long term parking in the 1-2 hour zones spaces for those with a Island Residential Zone parking sticker on Thames Street, Fore Street, Hancock Street and in remote spaces on Marginal Way.
- Two surface parking lot – Thames Street parking lot for \$10/day and Angelo's Acre on outer Commercial Street for \$5/day.
- Created island resident surface parking at Ocean Gateway lot (50 summer spaces, 30 winter spaces). Peverada noted that only 36 people have applied for the winter spaces this year at Ocean Gateway lot so it seems as though the number of available spaces fits current demand.
- City gives 10% discount to year round island districts in CBL garage.

Peverada said that a good portion of the Ocean Gateway lot is being converted to a park, so some of the parking spaces will be lost. The Ocean Gateway lot is also used for snow ban parking, so it remains to be determined how many spaces will be available for winter parking in the future.

Peverada provided an update on the 2019 shuttle service to the remote parking lot on Marginal Way, called the Franklin Street Shuttle.

- Ran from 6:30am-10:15am and again at 3pm-6:45pm
- In 2019, there were only 860 riders between Memorial Day and Indigenous People's Day
- It cost approximately \$40,000 to run the shuttle (about \$46/ride)
- The majority of the riders were CBL employees
- The city did not consider this program to be a success

Peverada said that the city is willing to run the shuttle again but they want to get some input from PIC and islanders about what would be helpful, what the needs are, if there is any interest. There would also have to be better promotion of the shuttle in hopes that more people would use it.

Peverada commented that the bike share program may provide an alternative to the shuttle, with people using the bikes to get back and forth to the remote parking lot on Marginal Way. The city is also working with the Metro to provide a more direct route to the remote parking lot on Marginal Way.

Somers asked who was using the shuttle besides the CBL employees. Peverada said the other passengers were islanders.

McLaughlin said he did use it when it ran in 2019, but he was often the only one on the shuttle. He noted that although parking on Marginal Way doesn't work best for islanders, it could work well for tourists and day trippers. McLaughlin said Eckel has spoken with Visit Portland and Downtown Portland about how to market the shuttle to tourists, because if tourists use the remote shuttle, it frees street parking spaces for residents.

Markov-Riss said the issue with monthly surface parking lots may be affordability versus availability. Markov-Riss asked if the city could subsidize some of the spaces in the Ocean Gateway lot instead of funding the shuttle? Peverada said no money has been allocated for the shuttle yet, so moving it to subsidize the Ocean Gateway lot parking spaces isn't part of the discussion yet.

Mohler said he is concerned about parking availability when the Ocean Gateway closes and maybe the Marginal Way shuttle will be more popular when that happens. Peverada said the shuttle would only be available June through early October. He noted that the state only allows cars to park in the remote "Park and Ride" lot on Marginal Way for a maximum of 48 hours, which is why the city created long term islander parking (with a residential sticker) at the 1-2 hour spots on Marginal Way.

Markov-Riss asked if the island zone street parking spaces are marked. Peverada said they are only marked as 1-2 hour parking spaces, but when you get your island resident parking sticker, you get a map showing you where the island zone parking spaces are on Thames Street, Hancock Street and Fore Street. The map is also available on line and signs will soon be going up on the Thames Street extension.

McLaughlin asked if Freedom Way is now an accepted city street. Peverada said it is only half a city street, and he is not sure whether it has been accepted or not. But it is not likely to bring additional parking spaces when it gets accepted.

Mohler asked if the city owned the CBL garage and if they can open up more monthly parking for island residents. Peverada said the city owns 49% of the garage, MHR owns 51%. Peverada said that the CBL garage has 418 spaces and has monthly parking for 440 island residents. They intentionally over sell the parking spaces because not everyone is in the garage at the same time but there is no way to expand the number of monthly passes for island residents.

Somers said that some businesses are now complaining about parking availability. What is the city's plan going forward? Peverada said the city would like to encourage people to take alternative transportation, and does not have an appetite for increasing the amount of parking in the city. The ReCode project is actually reducing the amount of parking required for new building projects.

AM asked if the city could mark the island resident street parking with blue lines on the curb so that it is obvious where islanders can park. Peverada said no because businesses like turnover at the meters.

AM said the shuttle doesn't make financial sense. Peverada said the idea would be to increase the number of riders so the cost per ride would come down.

AM asked what happened to the shuttle bus that went around to the hotels and out to the airport. Peverada was not familiar with that but he will ask about it with other people in the department.

AM asked about a shuttle to Angelo's Acre. Peverada said the city was considering a shuttle but the traffic on Commercial Street made it difficult.

AM asked if the city has considered vouchers for Uber or Lyft. Peverada said the city is not interested in that. Peverada said he thought the city will probably only try to shuttle one more time and if the ridership is very low again, they will abandon the idea.

Mohler asked why the city would take away some of the city parking spots, like the Ocean Gateway lot? Peverada said the city expected the garages to absorb the loss.

McLaughlin thanked Peverada for coming to the meeting.

- Community Composting project presentation from Environment & Sustainability Committee co-chair Owen Davis - *public comment*

Owen Davis reported on progress made to Peaks Island Community Composting project. Will Crosby and Madeline Pryor and Owen Davis have been working on the project. The team has researched a number of different options that would have the largest impact on organic waste diversion. Steven Moore from Great Diamond has shared their annual report about Great Diamond Island's composting program. They saved \$25,000 by diverting waste from the city purple bags to the composting program.

The ultimate goal is on-island composting such as is happening on Great Diamond Island. Davis said in the middle term, the team is looking at how to plug into the city's existing composting program on the mainland. Joining the city's program may require some funding, that the team hopes would be funded by the city (approximately \$5,000/year). The team considered Garbage to Garden but the city program seems to be a better option considering the costs and logistics. The team is also developing some fund-raising to purchase the necessary equipment.

Markov-Riss asked if the on-island composting is being worked on in parallel with the mid-term goal, since the self-contained on-island composting is the best option. Davis said both are being worked on at the same time.

Patnaude said the cost of taking trash off the island is \$89/ton, and all the trash that leaves the island gets burned to make electricity at Eco Maine. So the cost of a composting program should be competitive with that figure. Davis said the committee is trying to develop a solution that is cost-neutral or cost-saving.

Mohler said PIC might be able to help with funding sources for the program. Davis said that the equipment required is a containment vessel with an auger for aeration. This equipment will probably cost more than \$10,000.

- Inquiry regarding disputed land on Ryefield Street –

McLaughlin said the PIC has been contacted by several community members about the land dispute on Ryefield Street which will be discussed at a zoning meeting on November 3rd. Councilors feel they do not have enough information to weigh in on this issue, but they would like to gather more information.

McLaughlin made a motion to have the PIC reach out to the Zoning Department staff and the City Manager's office to inquiry about the disputed land on Ryefield Street. Mohler seconded.

AM said PIC should consider precedent and getting involved in neighbor-to-neighbor disputes. McLaughlin said that some information indicates it involves city owned land, so that makes this situation slightly different. And PIC would only be gathering information and would then decide whether to engage based on that information.

McLaughlin said he would do the inquiries and share the information with PIC councilors via email.

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion regarding the PIC making recommendations for the City five-year Capital Improvement Plan - *public comment*

Somers said input about the five-year Capital Improvement Plan is due to city on December 2nd so there would need to be fast turn-around.

McLaughlin made a motion for PIC to issue an island-wide survey to get islander input about priorities for capital improvements on Peaks Island. Somers seconded.

McLaughlin said he believes the survey could be multiple choice (including issues recently raised by islanders) with an "Other" option that would allow respondents to offer their own ideas about capital improvement projects.

McLaughlin asked that since the PIC Environmental Committee is also issuing a survey about Trott Littlejohn Park, should the surveys be staggered or combined.

Mohler said that the short deadline means a quick turnaround.

Somers said that according to the priorities survey issued a few years ago, the islanders' responses at that time cited roads, infrastructure, public restrooms, parking, sidewalks, Welch Street congestion.

Sommers suggested that the survey could include the Trott Littlejohn Park questions and if more information about the park was required at a later date, a second survey could be issued at that time.

Markov-Riss said the composting project should also be included in the survey.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

Mohler made motion to adjourn. Markov-Riss seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:37 p.m.